

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

General Counsel

20 June 1983

NOTE FOR:

DDCI

FROM:

[Redacted]

*\* Briefcase  
FOIA Hring*

STAT

John:

Attached are two questions which I think you should answer. The first is a question generated in-house which we anticipate will come. The two questions on the second page are questions sent down from the SSCI staff this morning and my proposed answer is stated. Further, for your information, Exhibit 1 is the picture of the girl with a stack of files which will be available in poster-size version for the open hearing. Exhibit 2, also attached is an example of an operational cable sanitized for FOIA release by the DDO.

[Redacted]

Attachments

*might not  
think it's  
dumb to have  
her stop my  
like that.*

25X1

STAT

Q: Mr. McMahon, why are you supporting this legislation which would only grant relief to the CIA? Don't other agencies in the Intelligence Community have problems complying with the FOIA?

A: Yes, we recognize that other agencies within the Intelligence Community face difficulties under the FOIA, but, for the reasons I discussed in my statement, CIA's problems with the FOIA are particularly great. Also, this legislation is premised upon the fact that the file systems containing operational information are separate and apart from those files within the CIA which contain the intelligence product. Therefore, it is clear that it is possible for the CIA to be relieved of the burden of searching and reviewing operational files without bringing about a loss of access to that information which is disseminated to our customers. It is not clear, however, that the file systems of other agencies within the Intelligence Community are similarly established. And, although the DCI has a Community-wide responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods, he does not have the authority to directly manage the records of the other agencies in the Intelligence Community.

DCI  
day to -  
day management  
authority  
over CIA,  
not others.  
Stan's  
approach -  
you can  
fix it if  
you want

Q: What specific steps does CIA intend to take when this bill is passed to reduce the backlog in processing FOIA/PA/EO requests and improve CIA responsiveness?

Q: If fewer full-time positions are needed for search and review of operational files, will those billets be shifted away from FOIA/PA/EO processing? Or will they be used to improve FOIA/PA/EO responsiveness?

A: If this bill is passed, it is obvious that the horrendous backlog will be automatically vastly reduced in a reasonable time because there no longer will be the need to do the time-consuming and destructive search and review of operational files. At this point, there are no specific plans before me how to reallocate personnel to handle FOIA processing after this bill becomes law. But let me assure you that once this bill is enacted, I will see to it that the public receives prompt replies to their requests and I will further see to it that adequate resources will be assigned to the task.

*For 2 needs!*

EXHIBIT 1



EXHIBIT 2

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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 -B, POSSIBILITY THAT ~~REF K~~ AND DAVID MIGHT BE IDENTICAL.

3. FILE: ~~REF I~~ X-REF ~~REF I~~

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